

**FISHERIES UPDATE FOR THE WEEK OF AUGUST 8-14, 2016.** Report #12

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Office of Subsistence Management, USFWS.

The purpose of the weekly fisheries update is to provide the reader with an overall summary of the status of subsistence related fisheries throughout the state of Alaska. The target audience is the Federal Subsistence Board and its Staff Committee. The report was compiled with the assistance of the Federal in-season managers and OSM staff that provided weekly updated information by the close of business on Friday of the reporting week. My goal is to have the report sent by the close of business the following Monday. Web links have been included to provide additional information. You may obtain additional information on a fishery of particular interest by contacting the in-season manager, provided contacts, follow the provided web links, or contact me.

**SOUTHEAST ALASKA****Sitka and Hoonah Area, Forest Service, Tongass National Forest**

Klag Bay - The Sitka Tribe of Alaska operates the Sockeye Salmon monitoring weir at Klag Bay which is operating as of June 28<sup>th</sup>. As of August 13<sup>th</sup>, 4,150 Sockeye Salmon have been counted and about 2,350 have been harvested in the bay. The run timing is largely driven by stream flow and Sockeye Salmon continue to move in with the recent rain. In 2015, approximately 3,304 sockeye migrated past the weir while an estimated 1,344 sockeye were harvested in the marine terminal area subsistence and sport fishery. Subsistence harvest accounted for over 99% of terminal area harvest.

Redoubt Lake - The Forest Service operates the Redoubt Lake weir which was operational June 13<sup>th</sup>. On August 13<sup>th</sup>, 144 Sockeye Salmon were counted passing the weir bring the season total to 19,417. Based on historic run timing and magnitude, the projected final escapement is about 24,000. In accordance with the Redoubt Lake management plan, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game increased the individual/household Sockeye Salmon limit from 10/50 to 25/100 and increased the sport fish bag and possession limit to 6. In 2015, an estimated total of 13,379 Sockeye Salmon passed through the weir into Redoubt Lake. The Coho Salmon passage is well above average for this date, indicating that the final run will be well above the long term average for the 2<sup>nd</sup> consecutive year. In 2015 we estimate about 30,000 Coho Salmon returned to Redoubt Lake and this year we are predicting about 15,000 will return. The long term average is around 5,000.

Falls Lake - The Forest Service and the Organized Village of Kake operate the Falls Lake trap and video net weir which were operating as of July 1<sup>st</sup>. On August 12<sup>th</sup>, 24 Sockeye Salmon were counted at the trap bringing the season total to 3,357. Since sockeye also use the falls to enter the lake and are not included in the trap count, we estimate the current escapement is around 4,000. About 1,100 sockeye have been harvested in the subsistence fishery. The final escapement estimate in 2015 was 4,716 Sockeye Salmon

while the final subsistence and sport harvest in the marine terminal area was 1,031. Subsistence harvest accounted for 99% of terminal area harvest.

### **Yakutat, Juneau, and Admiralty areas of Northern Southeast Alaska**

**Yakutat.** ADF&G personnel are pulling their weir on the Situk River today (August 12). The final count of Chinook Salmon of 330 was below the lower end of ADF&G's 450 to 1,050 escapement goal range. The Situk weir count of Sockeye Salmon of 55,500 is in the middle of ADF&G's 30,000 to 70,000 fish escapement goal range.

**Northern Inside areas of Southeast Alaska.** There have been no commercial purse seine openings in northern inside waters the past two weeks and no seine openings are planned this coming week. These are usually the peak weeks of Pink Salmon abundance and seine fishing effort.

Neva Lake. Personnel from the Hoonah Indian Association have been operating a pair of video weirs at the outlet of Neva Lake since June 14. One-thousand-and-sixty-six Sockeye Salmon have escaped into the lake as of August 11. Based on past years we can expect that 65% of the Sockeye Salmon have entered the lake and the total escapement will be a little over 1,600. Live video, and recent motion-triggered video, from our four in-chute cameras and four project site surveillance cameras can now be seen by typing "24:237:148:82:81" into a web browser. The four surveillance cameras will not always be streaming live video. The remote monitoring system has improved the speed and repeatability (reliability) of fish counting.

Kook Lake. Personnel from the Angoon Community Association (ACA) have been operating a pair of video net weirs at the outlet of Kook Lake since June 26. As of August 12, 3,350 Sockeye Salmon have escaped into the lake.

Sitkoh Lake. A pair of remotely monitored video net weirs were installed at the outlet of Sitkoh Lake on June 30<sup>th</sup>. The ACA project personnel who work at Kook Lake do the video review and fish counting from both the Kook and Sitkoh video weirs. Their counts through July 28 was 1,302 Sockeye Salmon into Sitkoh Lake.

### **Prince of Wales and Ketchikan District Area**

The 2016 Federal subsistence salmon fishery for Southeast Alaska and Yakutat areas is on-going. To date, 235 permits have been issued.

Most subsistence Sockeye Salmon fisheries have completed with exception to subsistence users fishing marine waters, under State issued permits at Eek and Hetta. Effort at Klawock and Hetta has been lower than normal due to lower returns. Some fishing effort was noted at Hatchery Creek and Karta River.

The Hydaburg Cooperative Association projects at both Hetta Lake and Eek Lake are ongoing. There have been 416 Sockeye Salmon counted at Hetta to date and 29 at Eek. The Klawock Lake project has had 2,014 Sockeye Salmon counted to date.

Commercial seining is ongoing for Chum Salmon in hatchery terminal areas in District 2 and directed effort for Pink and Sockeye Salmon occurring in Districts 1 and 4. Drift gillnet openings are occurring weekly in District 1. The summer season commercial troll for Chinook began July 1 summer. The commercial troll fishery for Chinook has been closed since July 6 and is now primarily targeting Coho Salmon in non-terminal harvest areas. Commercial harvest to date is 26,870 Chinook Salmon, 534,595 Sockeye Salmon, 226,300 Coho Salmon, 10,627,700 Pink Salmon and 1,373,400 Chum Salmon from Districts 1-4.

### **Wrangell/Petersburg Area – Bob Larson, Forest Service, Tongass National Forest**

#### **Stat Week 33, ending Aug 13**

There have been 133 fishing permits issued for the Stikine River subsistence salmon fishery. The estimated cumulative subsistence harvest for this fishery is 45 Chinook, 10 Coho and 1,960 Sockeye Salmon. The preliminary indications are that the Chinook Salmon escapement into the Stikine will likely be near the lower end of the escapement goal range of 14,000 to 28,000 large Chinook Salmon; a situation shared by several other spawning stocks in the region. The total return for Sockeye Salmon to the Stikine is likely to exceed the preseason forecast of 223,000 Sockeye Salmon. This is mid-season for Coho and Pink Salmon but the commercial catches for both species in inside waters are below average.

### **Sitka and Hoonah Area – Justin Koller, Forest Service, Tongass National Forest**

Justin Koller, (907)747-4297 [jpkoller@fs.fed.us](mailto:jpkoller@fs.fed.us)

### **Wrangell/Petersburg Area – Bob Larson, Forest Service, Tongass National Forest**

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### **Yakutat, Juneau, and Admiralty areas of Northern Southeast Alaska - Ben Van Alen**

(907-789-6257; [bvanalen@fs.fed.us](mailto:bvanalen@fs.fed.us)) and Jake Musslewhite (907-789-6256; [jgmusslewhite@fs.fed.us](mailto:jgmusslewhite@fs.fed.us)), Forest Service, **Tongass National Forest**

### **Prince of Wales and Ketchikan District Area – Jeff Reeves, Forest Service, Tongass**

**National Forest.** (907) 826-1649 [jreeves@fs.fed.us](mailto:jreeves@fs.fed.us)

### **Southeast Alaska Web Links**

*Tongass National Forest News Room* <http://www.fs.usda.gov/news/tongass/news-events>

*Federal Subsistence Fisheries Regulations for Southeastern Alaska Area*  
[http://www.doi.gov/subsistence/regulation/fish\\_shell/upload/Southeast.pdf](http://www.doi.gov/subsistence/regulation/fish_shell/upload/Southeast.pdf)

*ADF&G Sport and Personal Use Fishing News Release and Emergency Order Link*  
<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/sf/EONR/index.cfm?ADFG=region.R1>

*ADF&G Commercial Fisheries News Release and Emergency Order Link*  
<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=cfnews.main>

*Weekly ADF&G Sport Fishing Reports for Southeast Alaska*  
<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/sf/FishingReports/index.cfm?ADFG=R1.home>

*Statewide ADF&G Fish counts*  
<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/sf/FishCounts/>

## **SOUTHCENTRAL ALASKA**

### **PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND – COPPER RIVER**

#### **Copper River – Dave Sarafin, Wrangell-St. Elias National Park/Preserve**

The ADF&G sonar at Miles Lake (located just downstream of the Million Dollar Bridge in the Copper River) was removed from the river as of July 29. It estimated that 801,593 salmon had migrated upstream for the season. This estimate is 21% more than the projected escapement of 663,261 for this date, or 138,332 more salmon.

The Chitina Subdistrict was closed for 90 hours from 11:59 p.m. Sunday, August 7 through 6:00 p.m. Thursday, August 11. For the week, it was open between 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, August 11 through 11:59 p.m. Sunday, August 14. The state and federal fisheries usually follow identical fishing schedules which are set by the state. Ninety-six (96) Federal Chitina Subdistrict permits have been issued on the FWS online data base. Additional permits for this subdistrict have been issued in Chitina and Kennecott, NPS ranger stations that do not have internet connectivity.

The Glennallen Subdistrict opened for Federal subsistence users on May 15<sup>th</sup> and is expected to remain open until September 30<sup>th</sup>. Two hundred eighty-one (281) Federal Glennallen permits have been issued on the FWS online data base. Additional permits for this subdistrict have been issued in Chitina and Kennecott, NPS ranger stations that do not have internet connectivity. The state subsistence fishery in the Glennallen Subdistrict opened on June 1.

The Batzulnetas fishery is open. No Federal permits have been issued, as of the online data base.

The Tanada Creek fish weir is continuing to operate. The cumulative season counts through August 10 are 9,084 Sockeye Salmon and 2 Chinook Salmon.

The Long Lake fish weir was installed on July 26. As of August 10, no salmon have been observed in the creek.

ADF&G's counting tower in the Gulkana River has estimated 1,056 Chinook Salmon migrating past the site as of August 7. (The 2015 estimate through August 6 was 3,648 fish.)

Seven Special Actions have been issued by the park this season:

- delaying the starting date of the Chitina Subdistrict federal subsistence salmon fishery and setting the tentative pre-season schedule for this fishery.
- amending the preseason schedule for the Chitina Subdistrict for the week of July 4 – July 10, allowing a full week (168 hours) of fishing and providing the tentative schedule for future fishing periods.
- amending the preseason schedule for the Chitina Subdistrict for the week of July 11-17, allowing a full week (168 hours) of fishing.
- amending the preseason schedule for the Chitina Subdistrict for the week of July 18-24, allowing a full week (168 hours) of fishing.
- amending the preseason schedule for the Chitina Subdistrict for the week of July 25-31, allowing for 160 hours of fishing.
- amending the preseason schedule for the Chitina Subdistrict for the week of August 1-7, allowing for 118 hours of fishing.
- amending the preseason schedule for the Chitina Subdistrict for the week of August 8-14, allowing for 78 hours of fishing.

#### Links

ADF&G Miles Lake daily sonar estimates

[http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=commercialbyareacopperriver.salmon\\_escapement](http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=commercialbyareacopperriver.salmon_escapement)

NVE's Chinook Escapement Monitoring project in the Copper River

<http://eyak.fishscan.com/Summary/DailySummary.aspx>

ADF&G Copper River Inseason Commercial Harvest Estimates

<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=commercialbyareacopperriver.harvestsummary>

Gulkana River counting tower – ADF&G

<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/sf/FishCounts/index.cfm?ADFG=main.LocSelectYearSpecies>

**PWS and Copper River Delta – Milo Burcham, Chugach National Forest, Cordova.**  
(907) 424-4759 [mburcham@fs.fed.us](mailto:mburcham@fs.fed.us)

A total of 73 Federal Subsistence fishing permits have been issued for freshwaters within the Prince William Sound of Chugach National Forest to date. One-hundred and two

permits were issued in 2015. Harvest by this year's permit holders will not be known until reports are returned this winter. In 2015, 878 coho and 172 sockeye were reported harvested on Copper River Delta fresh waters in this fishery.

Copper River District opened at 7:00 am on Monday, August 15 for a 24-hour commercial fishing period. Copper River District is switching to coho salmon management starting with Monday's fishing period. The standard management strategy for coho salmon is one or two 24-hour periods per week depending on escapement and harvest levels. For the week ending August 6, the actual Copper River delta survey count was 28,180 sockeye salmon versus an anticipated range of 24,976–59,034 fish.

**Cook Inlet Area – Jeff Anderson, Field Supervisor, Kenai Fish and Wildlife Field Office** (907) 260-0132 [Jeffrey\\_Anderson@fws.gov](mailto:Jeffrey_Anderson@fws.gov)

Harvest of 1,123 Sockeye Salmon from the Russian River Falls dip net fishery and 6 Sockeye Salmon in the Kasilof River dip net fishery have been reported through August 11. A season total harvest of 94 Sockeye Salmon has been reported for the Kasilof River experimental community gillnet fishery through the regulatory end date of July 31. Harvest of 432 Sockeye Salmon, 4 Coho Salmon, and 2 Pink Salmon has been reported for the Kenai River experimental community gillnet fishery through August 11. Totals of 164 Kenai River permits, 45 Kasilof River permits, and 13 Designated Fisher permits have been issued through August 11.

Fish counts at some Department-operated assessment projects are available on-line at <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/sf/FishCounts/index.cfm?ADFG=main.home>

**Kodiak Island Area – Anne Marie La Rosa, Refuge Manager, - Kodiak NWR** (907) 487-2600/0230 [AnneMarie\\_LaRosa@fws.gov](mailto:AnneMarie_LaRosa@fws.gov) or Kevin Van Hatten (907) 487-0230 [Kevin\\_VanHatten@fws.gov](mailto:Kevin_VanHatten@fws.gov)

Subsistence fishing around the Kodiak Archipelago has been dwindling down the past couple of weeks. Many villagers have turned their attention to hunting as the season opened on August 1, 2016. Some of the weirs operated by Alaska Department of Fish and Game – Commercial Fisheries Division have been pulled. These include; Litnik (Afognak Island), Dog Salmon, Frazer Fish Pass, and Saltery River. It is understood that many subsistence users are waiting for the coho (silver) salmon to start migrating in before continuing their harvest efforts.

Pink salmon are continuing strong in the Buskin River which appears to be having about above average run of even-year pinks. Silvers are being caught by trollers around Kodiak and are beginning to show up in the Buskin.

Any reports of subsistence activities will be reported during the upcoming week.

***Federal Subsistence Fisheries Regulations for Kodiak Area***  
<http://alaska.fws.gov/asm/pdf/fishregs13/kodiak.pdf>

**Bristol Bay and Chignik – Johnathon Gerken Fisheries Branch Chief Anchorage Fish and Wildlife Field Office**  
 (907) 271-2776 Jonathon\_Gerken@fws.gov

**Bristol Bay:**

For Bristol Bay, the forecast is for 46.6 million Sockeye Salmon, which is lower than the preseason forecast of 54 million for 2015. Most of the sustainable escapement goals (SEG) for Bristol Bay systems were recently revised to increase the upper ranges:

System	SEG
Ugashik	500,000 – 1,400,000
Egegik	800,000 – 2,000,000
Naknek	800,000 – 2,000,000
Kvichak	2,000,000 – 10,000,000
Wood River	800,000 – 1,800,000
Nushagak	370,000 – 900,000
Igushik	150,000 – 400,000

As of July 27, the Egegik District has a cumulative escapement of greater than 1.8 million Sockeye Salmon. The escapement project ended on July 24. The commercial harvest for the Egegik District is 8.3 million Sockeye Salmon through July 25. Commercial fishing in the Egegik District is currently on the fall fishing schedule. The fall fishing schedule is 9:00 a.m. Monday to 9:00 a.m. Friday. The Ugashik District cumulative escapement is greater than 1.6 million with a cumulative harvest is 6.6 million Sockeye Salmon on July 26. The escapement project is ceased on July 25. Commercial fishing in the Ugashik District is currently on the fall fishing schedule. The fall fishing schedule is 9:00 a.m. Thursday to 9:00 a.m. Monday. As of July 14, the Naknek River escapement is 1.2 million and the Kvichak River escapement is 3.2 million Sockeye Salmon. Commercial fishing is currently on the fall fishing schedule. The fall fishing schedule is 9:00 a.m. Monday to 9:00 a.m. Friday. As of July 22, the Nushagak River escapement is above 3.2 million Sockeye Salmon. Commercial harvest for the Nushagak District is 7.9 million Sockeye Salmon. Commercial fishing with set and drift gillnets remains open until further notice in the Nushagak Section. Escapement monitoring for the Nushagak and Wood Rivers has ceased. An announcement switching management from Sockeye Salmon to Pink and Coho Salmon is upcoming. The Wood River escapement was 975,585 and the Igushik River escapement is 167,286 Sockeye Salmon as of July 12. Stock composition estimates for Bristol Bay Sockeye Salmon populations are based on 190 fish sampled at Port Moller on July 9-10. Prevalent stocks are Ugashik (29.5%), Egegik (20.5%), and Kvichak (16.9%). Results for all stocks can be found here:



[http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=fishinggeneconservationlab.bbaysockeye\\_results](http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=fishinggeneconservationlab.bbaysockeye_results).

The Togiak run is considered to have late run timing. As of August 10, the commercial harvest is 600,000 Sockeye Salmon with an escapement count at the Togiak Tower of 200,046. The Togiak District Salmon Management Plan calls for a Sockeye Salmon escapement of 150,000 counted past the Togiak Tower. Commercial fishing in all sections of the Togiak District will open as per the regular weekly schedule on August 15 and this schedule will remain in place until the close of the season which is the end of September.

#### Chignik:

Sockeye Salmon	Escapement Goal
Early Run – Black Lake	BEG = 350,000 – 450,000
Late Run – Chignik Lake	SEG = 200,000 – 400,000
Inriver Subsistence Goal	25,000 in August and 50,000 in September in addition to late run escapement goals
Chinook Salmon	BEG = 1,300 – 2,700
Pink Salmon – Even year	SEG = 170,000 – 280,000
Chum Salmon	SEG = 45,000 – 110,000

The 2016 total Sockeye Salmon forecast run for the Chignik River watershed is approximately 2,910,000 fish. Current escapement estimates through the Chignik weir are 418,290 early run and 256,928 late run Sockeye Salmon and 1,825 Chinook Salmon as of August 11. As of August 11, the commercial catch is estimated at 1.3 million Sockeye Salmon, 19,688 Chinook Salmon, 131,248 Pink Salmon, and 109,084 Chum Salmon. Stock composition on the Sockeye Salmon escapement is 19.9% early run and 80.1% late run based on 190 fish on July 17. Commercial fishing periods are scheduled. Subsistence fishing is closed for salmon 12 hours before, during, and 12 hours following a commercial fishing period.

#### Alaska Peninsula:

The commercial salmon fishing season in the Alaska Peninsula is open, but specific to location and section. Specific fishing locations and timing, open to commercial fishing, should be verified by the ADFG Port Moller Office.

#### ***Federal Subsistence Fisheries Regulations for Bristol Bay Area***

[http://www.doi.gov/subsistence/regulation/fish\\_shell/upload/Bristol.pdf](http://www.doi.gov/subsistence/regulation/fish_shell/upload/Bristol.pdf)

#### ***Federal Subsistence Fisheries Regulations for Chignik Area***

[http://www.doi.gov/subsistence/regulation/fish\\_shell/upload/chignik.pdf](http://www.doi.gov/subsistence/regulation/fish_shell/upload/chignik.pdf)



## **Southcentral Alaska Web Links**

### ***Federal Subsistence Management Fisheries News Releases***

<http://www.doi.gov/subsistence/news/fishing/index.cfm>

### ***ADF&G Sport and Personal Use Fishing News Release and Emergency Order link***

<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=fishingSportFishingInfo.R2>

### ***ADF&G Commercial Fisheries News Release and Emergency Order Link***

<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=cfnews.main>

### ***Weekly ADF&G Sport Fishing Reports for Southcentral Alaska***

<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/sf/FishingReports/index.cfm?ADFG=R2.Home>

### ***Statewide ADF&G Fish counts:***

<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/sf/FishCounts/>

### **Yukon River – Gerald Maschmann, Fish Biologist USFWS Fairbanks Office.**

[Gerald\\_Maschmann@fws.gov](mailto:Gerald_Maschmann@fws.gov) or

Fred Bue [Fredrick\\_Bue@fws.gov](mailto:Fredrick_Bue@fws.gov)

Emmonak Summer Office (907) 949-1798

The Emmonak Field Office is closed for the season. For management questions call the Fairbanks office at (907) 455-1849.

### **Summer Season Outlook, Management Strategies, and Assessment**

The Yukon River summer season has nearly ended in the Alaskan portion of the Yukon drainage and management has switched to fall season. The fourth and final pulse of Chinook Salmon has passed into Canada and terminal streams. The Pilot Station sonar had an estimated passage through July 18 of 175,000 Chinook Salmon. This is at the upper end of the pre-season outlook range of 130,000 to 175,000 and near the historical cumulative average of 185,000 for the project. The Eagle sonar estimated passage through August 11 is 72,000 Chinook Salmon, above the upper end of the escapement goal range of 42,500-55,000. Passage rates at the Eagle sonar are trickling down below 300 per day as the Chinook Salmon run comes to an end. At this time, the Canadian harvest sharing agreement has been surpassed with most Canadian escapement needs likely provided for.

As in recent years, initial management was based on the expectation that the 2016 Chinook Salmon run size would likely be near the lower end of this range. Management strategies have followed those agreed to during pre-season management meetings. Early subsistence fishing opportunities targeted non-Chinook Salmon species, such as whitefish and Summer Chum Salmon. The majority of the Chinook Salmon run has been protected to some extent with closures and restrictive fishing gear all the way upriver and into the

spawning areas. As the season progressed and managers became more confident in the assessment information, fishing restrictions were relaxed to allow for some Chinook Salmon harvests. With a run size similar to 2015, managers were successful in providing slightly more subsistence fishing opportunity for both Summer Chum and directed Chinook Salmon harvest while achieving escapement objectives. Preliminary subsistence reports indicate that many fishermen are generally happy at being given some limited opportunities to fish for Chinook Salmon. Some report having met all their salmon needs, while others are planning to fish for Fall Chum Salmon to meet their needs.

The Summer Chum Salmon run was projected to be average to above average and to provide for escapement and subsistence uses with a surplus of 450,000 to 950,000 anticipated to be available for commercial harvest. The Summer Chum Salmon run exceeded the upper end of the pre-season expectation. The final passage estimate of Summer Chum past the Pilot Station sonar was 1.9 million fish. Approximately 525,000 Summer Chum Salmon were harvested in the commercial fishery.

The East Fork Andreafsky River weir passed a below average 2,676 Chinook Salmon and an above median 50,362 Summer Chum Salmon. Escapement goals for both salmon species were met in the Andreafsky River and operations ceased on July 24. The Anvik River sonar estimated a below median Summer Chum Salmon passage with 330,700 fish and ceased operations on July 24. The minimum escapement goal of 350,000 Summer Chum Salmon for the Anvik River was not met. The Gisasa River weir passed a below average 1,395 Chinook Salmon and a well above average 66,670 Summer Chum Salmon with operations ceased on July 28. The Henshaw Creek weir passed a slightly above average 1,338 Chinook Salmon and a well above average 283,957 Summer Chum Salmon with operations ceased on August 1. Assessment at the Chena and Salcha Rivers has been hindered by high water.

### **Fall Season Outlook and Management Strategies**

The 2016 Fall Chum Salmon preseason run projection, based on the Summer Chum to Fall Chum Salmon relationship, is for a run size between 800,000 and 900,000 fish. This level of abundance should be sufficient to provide for escapement, an above average subsistence harvest, and a surplus available for commercial and personal use purposes. Subsistence salmon fishing was initially relaxed to the normal regulatory salmon fishing schedule and gear which allows gillnets with 7.5-inch or smaller mesh. Commercial fishing will generally continue on a standard schedule of 2 periods per week in each of Districts 1 and 2 with some juggling to target pulses of Fall Chum Salmon as warranted based on assessment.

### **Assessment**

The Lower Yukon Test Fishery (LYTF) shifted to fall season assessment on July 16. Through August 11, the cumulative CPUE is 635.15 is above the average of 709.20. The Mt. Village Test Fishery (MVTF) began operations on July 18 and has a cumulative CPUE of 1,507.73, above the average at this time of 1,070.10. The Pilot Station sonar shifted to fall season assessment on July 19 and has a cumulative estimated passage of 462,000 Fall Chum Salmon, well above the median estimated passage of 332,000. The

first pulse of approximately 360,000 Fall Chum passed the sonar on July 19 through 28. The second pulse of approximately 90,000 Fall Chum Salmon passed the sonar on August 1-4. A third pulse appears to be passing the LYTF on August 10-12. Coho Salmon have begun trickling in and passage rates are expected to increase next week.

### **Management Actions**

Subsistence fishing in the Coastal District and Districts 1- 3 and Subdistrict 5D has been relaxed to their normal schedule of 24 hours per day, seven days per week with 7.5-inch or smaller mesh gillnet gear. District 4 and Subdistricts 5A, 5B, and 5C were liberalized to 24 hours per day, seven days per week with 7.5-inch or smaller mesh gillnet gear. District 6 remains on its normal regulatory schedule. Commercial fishing for Fall Chum Salmon began in District 1 on July 18 and District 2 on July 20. Nine periods in District 1 have an estimated harvest of 97,000 Fall Chum Salmon and 3,500 Coho Salmon, and seven periods in District 2 have an estimated harvest of 75,000 Fall Chum Salmon and 1,000 Coho Salmon.

### **Consultation**

Extensive public outreach and consultation occurred during the fall of 2015 and spring of 2016 to inform and seek input from Yukon River fishermen and stakeholders. Run outlook and possible management strategies were discussed at Federal RAC meetings and State AC meetings, the Yukon River Panel meeting and at the annual Yukon River Drainage Fishermen's Association Board meeting. In April, a pre-season planning meeting was held in Anchorage that brought together representatives from most Alaskan Yukon River communities to discuss the run outlook and management options. Assessment and management actions were discussed on the ninth YRDFA teleconference on August 9. Alaska members of the Yukon River Panel, their alternates, and advisors (YAG) teleconferenced with State and Federal managers on June 22 and July 12. Participants were brought up to date on current run assessment, mid-season run expectations, and summarized management actions to date. Management options and strategies were discussed with concerns and suggestions identified for management consideration.

**Kuskokwim River – Ray Born, Refuge Manager, Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge Contact [Vernon\\_Born@fws.gov](mailto:Vernon_Born@fws.gov); (907) 543-3151 or [Lewis\\_Coggins@fws.gov](mailto:Lewis_Coggins@fws.gov)**

Reporting complete for the season, please contact manager with questions.

### **Yukon-Kuskokwim-Interior Alaska Web Links**

***Federal Subsistence Management Fisheries News Releases:***

<http://www.doi.gov/subsistence/news/fishing/index.cfm>

***Federal Subsistence Fisheries Regulations for Yukon–Northern Area***

[http://www.doi.gov/subsistence/regulation/fish\\_shell/upload/Yukon.pdf](http://www.doi.gov/subsistence/regulation/fish_shell/upload/Yukon.pdf)

**NEW = Kuskokwim River Updates Hosted on OSM Website**

<http://www.doi.gov/subsistence/kuskokwim.cfm>

*Federal Subsistence Fisheries Regulations for Kuskokwim Area*  
[http://www.doi.gov/subsistence/regulation/fish\\_shell/upload/Kusko.pdf](http://www.doi.gov/subsistence/regulation/fish_shell/upload/Kusko.pdf)

*ADF&G Sport and Personal Use Fishing News Release and Emergency Order link:*  
<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/sf/EONR/index.cfm?ADFG=region.R3>

*ADF&G Commercial Fisheries News Release and Emergency Order Link:*  
<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=cfnews.main>

*Weekly ADF&G Sport Fishing Reports for Interior Alaska:*  
<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/sf/FishingReports/index.cfm?ADFG=R3.home>

*Statewide ADF&G Fish counts:*  
<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/sf/FishCounts/>

**Northwest Alaska – Ken Adkisson, National Park Service, Nome.**  
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### **Norton Sound District**

Silver salmon were the majority of the catch from Golovin to Unalakleet in the commercial fishing period that ended Wednesday, July 10 with big catches from Elim to Unalakleet. The catch of silvers in Golovin and Nome would be expected to pick up as the silver salmon move north.

Southern Norton Sound escapement project crews have been unable to count for over 3 weeks because of high water, and the Fish River Tower crew has been unable to count since the end of July. The ADF&G will now use harvest based management in those areas where escapement projects and aerial surveys are unable to determine the silver salmon run size. The department will compare the commercial silver salmon catch to the historical catches during the same time period, and taking fishing effort and weather into consideration, determine if run strength is sufficient to allow additional commercial fishing time.

The ADF&G continues to announce openings for commercial salmon fishing in consultation with the buyer.

### ***Unalakleet (Subdistrict 6)***

Sport Fishing: The harvest restrictions for Chinook salmon in the Unalakleet River drainage will remain in place through August 15, 2016 unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

Commercial Fishing: The last previous commercial fishing period in the subdistrict was from 6 PM Monday, August 8 until 6 PM Wednesday, August 10. Commercial salmon fishing reopened in the subdistrict for two 48- hour fishing periods from 6 PM Friday, August 12 until 6 PM Sunday, August 14 and from 6 PM Monday, August 15 until 6 PM Wednesday, August 17. Permit holders are limited to 100 fathoms of gillnet and 6 inches or less stretched mesh size. The commercial catch so far this season is 400 sockeyes, 10,000 chums, 83,000 pinks and 10,700 silvers by 55 permit holders.

Subsistence Fishing: Subsistence fishing is open 7 days a week. Beach seines are restricted to 4 ½ inches or less mesh size. Any king salmon captured in beach seines must be immediately returned to the water unharmed.

#### ***Shaktoolik (Subdistrict 5)***

Sport Fishing: The harvest restrictions for Chinook salmon in the Shaktoolik River drainage will remain in place through August 15, 2016 unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

Commercial Fishing: The last previous commercial fishing period in the subdistrict was from 6 PM Monday, August 8 until 6 PM Wednesday, August 10. Commercial salmon fishing reopened in the subdistrict for two 48- hour fishing periods from 6 PM Friday, August 12 until 6 PM Sunday, August 14 and from 6 PM Monday, August 15 until 6 PM Wednesday, August 17. Permit holders are limited to 100 fathoms of gillnet and 6 inches or less stretched mesh size. The commercial catch so far this season is 270 sockeyes, 11,200 chums, 28,000 pinks and 7,300 silvers by 22 permit holders.

Subsistence Fishing: Subsistence fishing is open 7 days a week. Beach seines are restricted to 4 ½ inches or less mesh size. Any king salmon captured in beach seines must be immediately returned to the water unharmed.

**Shaktoolik Tower** – A cooperative project of NSEDC with assistance from Fish & Game has no escapement goals yet established. The sonar was unable to count for a week because of flooding at the camp.

#### ***Norton Bay (Subdistrict 4)***

Commercial Fishing: The last previous commercial fishing period in the subdistrict was from 6 PM Monday, August 8 until 6 PM Wednesday, August 10. Commercial salmon fishing reopened in the subdistrict for two 48- hour fishing periods from 6 PM Friday, August 12 until 6 PM Sunday, August 14 and from 6 PM Monday, August 15 until 6 PM Wednesday, August 17. Permit holders are limited to 100 fathoms of gillnet and 6 inches or less stretched mesh size. The commercial catch so far this season is 90 kings, 90 sockeyes, 9,900 chums, 21,000 pinks and 1,150 silvers by 12 permit holders.

Subsistence Fishing: Subsistence fishing is open 7 days a week.

***Elim (Subdistrict 3)***

Commercial Fishing: The last previous commercial fishing period in the subdistrict was from 6 PM Monday, August 8 until 6 PM Wednesday, August 10. Commercial salmon fishing reopened in the subdistrict for two 48- hour fishing periods from 6 PM Friday, August 12 until 6 PM Sunday, August 14 and from 6 PM Monday, August 15 until 6 PM Wednesday, August 17. Permit holders are limited to 100 fathoms of gillnet and 6 inches or less stretched mesh size. The commercial catch so far this season is 50 kings, 400 sockeyes, 6,200 chums, 36,000 pinks and 1,300 silvers by 20 permit holders.

Subsistence Fishing: Subsistence fishing is open seven days a week.

**Kwiniuk River Tower** – A Fish & Game project with assistance from NSEDC has escapement goals of 250 kings; 11,500 – 23,000 chums; 8,400 pinks; and 650-1,300 silvers (aerial survey goal). Cumulative counts through August 7 were 138 kings, 9 sockeyes, 8,400 chums, 1.9 million pinks and 500 silvers. The silver count is half of the 5-year average for the same date. The historical average midpoint of the run is August 15.

***Golovin (Subdistrict 2)***

Commercial Fishing: The last previous commercial fishing period in the subdistrict was from 6 PM Monday, August 8 until 6 PM Wednesday, August 10. Commercial salmon fishing reopened in the subdistrict for two 48- hour fishing periods from 6 PM Friday, August 12 until 6 PM Sunday, August 14 and from 6 PM Monday, August 15 until 6 PM Wednesday, August 17. Permit holders are limited to 100 fathoms of gillnet and 6 inches or less stretched mesh size. The commercial catch so far this season is 10 kings, 130 sockeyes, 5,000 chums, 14,000 pinks and 170 silvers by 8 permit holders.

Subsistence Fishing: Subsistence fishing is open seven days a week.

**Fish River Tower** - A cooperative project of NSEDC with assistance from Fish & Game. No escapement goals have been established. Counting was suspended at 1 PM July 30. Cumulative counts were 828 kings, 24 sockeyes, 71,000 chums, 822,000 pinks and 3,300 silvers.

***Nome (Subdistrict 1)***

Sport fishing: The pink salmon catch limits for the Nome River has been doubled to 20 fish per day.

Commercial Fishing: The last previous commercial 48-hour fishing period in the subdistrict closed at 6 PM Sunday, August 7. Commercial salmon fishing in the subdistrict was reopened for one 48-hour fishing period from 6 PM Friday, August 12 until 6 PM Sunday, August 14. Only one fisherman fished last weekend and none the week before. Non-participating fishermen say they are waiting for the pinks to clear out.

**Subsistence Fishing:** The subsistence net fishing schedule in the marine waters is from 6 PM Wednesday until 6 PM Monday in the marine waters west of Cape Nome and in all freshwater subsistence areas. East of Cape Nome, the marine waters are open seven days a week. There are no catch limits when fishing in marine waters. Catch limits that vary with the river may be found on the back of the subsistence permit. Beach seines, cast nets and dip nets can be used during the net fishing schedule, but only in the subsistence areas.

**Solomon River Weir** – A Fish & Game project, has no escapement goals yet established. Cumulative counts through August 7 were 3 kings, 7 sockeyes, 1,850 chums, 112,000 pinks and 124 silvers. The chum and pink counts were records in the four-year project history, and the silver count was the highest for the same date.

**Eldorado River Weir** – A cooperative project of NSEDC with assistance from Fish & Game has an escapement goal of 6,000 – 9,200 chum salmon. The project is completed. The cumulative counts through August 2 were 16 sockeyes, 18,894 chums, 42,497 pinks and 41 silvers. The pink count was the lowest on record for an even-numbered year.

**Nome River Weir** – A Fish & Game project with assistance from NSEDC has an escapement goal of 2,900 – 4,300 chum salmon and 13,000 pink salmon. Cumulative counts through August 7 were 10 kings, 6,400 chums, 1.1 million pinks, 120 sockeyes and 145 silvers. The pink passage was the second highest of all time for the date. For the same date, the chum passage and the silver passage is average.

**Snake River Weir** – A cooperative project between Fish & Game and NSEDC has an escapement goal of 1,600 – 2,500 chum salmon. The cumulative counts through August 7 were 8 kings, 3,500 chums, 203,000 pinks, 25 sockeyes and 65 silvers. The chum and silver counts are average. The pink count for the same date is the second highest in the 22 year project history.

### **Port Clarence District**

Subsistence gillnet and beach seining are open 7 days a week in the district and sockeye limits have been waived. A record 495 Pilgrim River permits have been issued.

**Pilgrim River Weir** – A cooperative project of NSEDC with assistance from Fish & Game has an escapement goal of 4,000 – 8,000 sockeyes based on aerial survey at Salmon Lake & Grand Central tributary to Salmon Lake. The cumulative counts through August 7 were 28 kings, 18,000 chums, 2,800 pinks, 14,400 sockeyes and 250 silvers. The second half of the sockeye run has been strong. The historical average 95% point of sockeye passage is August 8.

### **Kotzebue District**

At the request of the buyer, commercial salmon fishing in the district reopened for daily 8 hour periods from 10 AM until 6 PM beginning Sunday, August 7 through Friday,



August 12. After 4 weeks of commercial fishing this year's catch of 203,000 chum salmon is ahead of last year's catch of 191,000 chum salmon however beginning the 3rd week of fishing last year, permit holders were limited to 1,500 pounds daily for the rest of the season. So far this year the buyer has not had catch limits. The commercial fishing effort for the first 4 weeks of fishing is down by one-third compared to last year with an average of 36 permit holders fishing daily this year compared to 54 permit holders fishing daily last year.

**Kobuk River Test Fish - Fish & Game project.**

The Kobuk River test net crew at Kiana continues to report good catches of chum salmon. The chum salmon catch index ranks 10th highest in the 24 years of fishing. The catch index projection indicates that the chum salmon run will be adequate to provide for subsistence needs and escapement.

***Federal Subsistence Fisheries Regulations for the Kotzebue Area***

<http://alaska.fws.gov/asm/pdf/fishregs11/norton.pdf>